

CAMPAIGN FOR BETTER RURAL SCHOOLS URGED

By Lane Who Says 22,000,000 School Boys and Girls Are Greatest Resource.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—In his forthcoming annual report Secretary Lane suggests the need for a national campaign for a better rural school. He speaks of Young America, our 22,000,000 school boys and girls as the chief resource of the nation, and asks "Are we doing all possible to develop this resource?" His report continues:

If there is any one of our institutions in which the American people take undisputed pride and of which they feel justified in boasting, it is the public school system, for this is "the greatest of American inventions" and the most successful social enterprise yet undertaken by any people. The United States maintains a bureau of education in this department, which, upon a small appropriation, collects as best it can the figures and facts which most inadequately tell the story of the growth and use of this most brilliantly conceived piece of governmental machinery.

Not Indifferent. The American people are not indifferent to their schools. Quite otherwise. They pay for their support almost as much as they do for the support of the entire federal government; in round numbers, three-quarters of a billion dollars a year, which keeps an army of 600 teachers at work. Education is indeed our foremost industry, from whatever point of view it may be regarded. Yet I am assured that it has made less progress than any of our other industries during the last thirty years. With all the marvelous record of what the mind of the quick people may produce to make life happier and nature more serviceable, how little can be shown as our contribution to the methods of improving the mind and skill of the young! We have gone to Europe—to Italy, Switzerland, Germany and Denmark chiefly—for the new methods with which we have experiment, and Japan has found a way to instruct through the eyes and hands that will make these very practical people still more distinguished. Yet here and there under rare leadership may be found in this country the most striking proofs of what can be done to tie our schools to our life. The hope is eventually to make the school what it should be, and easily may be made to be, the very heart of the community—social club and co-operative center, as well as school.

Nothing Visionary. There would seem to be nothing visionary in such a hope. To effect this evolution there is needed primarily leadership, and this the government must give if it is to realize its desire for a people who are both skilled and happy. The spirit of our people is against a paternal government. We do not take with kindness an authority that is mandatory. There is a sound belief that a people who make their own way are in the end riper and of stronger fiber than those who accept what is not the result of common determination. But this spirit of intense individualism does not make us independent of or indifferent to useful methods and helpful standards. And it is these that we can reveal. It is these that we should find and place in service, rather than force the disconnected schools of the land to feel their way out or "muddle through." We may not command, but we may "show how." This is democracy's substitute for absolutism in the effort to secure efficiency. For such policy of helpfulness there is abundant precedent, not only in the action of Congress in making minor appropriations for the work of the bureau of education on precisely these lines, but in the activities of other departments. The country is dotted with experimental farms which prove soil values and the farmer of today is learning from the government how great and all embracing must be the knowledge necessary to the carrying on of this work, for he must know of chemistry, mechanics, markets and finance, transportation and a world of things which his father or grandfather would have laughed at as the follies of a doctrinaire education, notwithstanding the early example of the wise and many-sided farmer, who was the third president of this country.

I have said in a previous report that the bureau of education should either be abolished or put to serious high purpose. I believe the latter to be the wise, in fact the necessary, course. There is a real use for it. As in the bureau of mines, we seek to save the lives of men by educating them in the use of explosives and life-saving apparatus and by instructing operators in safe methods of building their vast underground workshops, so I would erect the bureau of education into a bureau of educational methods and standards, in which would be gathered the ripe fruit of all educational experiments, upon which the schools of the country could draw. This is a wide country, and there is need for a national clearing house where can be centered and exchanged the results of the most remote experiments.

Why Not a Rural School Campaign? There is no disguising the fact that we have a most difficult problem in the United States—and I cannot be-

Ruinous Curling Iron No Longer Necessary

The woman whose hair has been burnt around the hot curling iron. She knows only too well how destructive to the life and beauty of the hair this instrument of torture is. She will therefore welcome the information that a simple product to be found at any drug store will not only give her tresses the desired wavy effect, but without burning, discoloring, streaking or injuring hair or scalp in any way. It is nothing more than plain almond oil in liquid form. It should be applied to the hair with a clean tooth brush, preferably at night. A convenient way is to divide the hair into strands and moisten these one at a time from root to tip. In the morning the hair will be found beautifully wavy and curly, having the appearance of perfectly natural hair. The effect lasts a considerable time and one need get only a few ounces of the liquid almond oil. This, by the way, is neither sticky nor sticky.

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There is no necessity to talk about our grade of clothing now. It is the best sold for the money, and you know it. So just now while this SPECIAL OFFER is being made, IT IS IMPORTANT that you buy a suit or overcoat here, and get a LIVE TURKEY FREE.



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lieve it is ours alone—in the rural community. A majority of our school children are in rural schools. The query arises, are our rural schools doing their part in making life in the country desirable? An ambitious people will go where education can be had for their children. There is no sense in talking of the charms of the country life and the independence and dignity of producing from the soil if the school at command is no more modern than a wooden schoolhouse, which holds forty or fifty ungraded pupils, but having a single teacher who knows nothing, but books is not a modern institution, though great men have issued from its door. It may be all that the country can afford where many schools are maintained, but it is not all that the country can afford if schools are grouped and grades instituted. The richest state in the union has over 4,000 schools of this character, wherein teachers are paid less than competent farm hands, and this brings to mind the correlative thought that one needed reform in the school system in the elevation of teaching to a real profession, as in older countries. A it is now, a teacher is almost without status in our society. And this, in addition to the inadequacy of the pay has drawn to the profession those who use it only as a makeshift and those, who, out of a spirit of self-sacrifice and love for the work, serve in the highest way the public good. Of the former class we need fewer, and of the latter should come increasing honor.

How can the schools of a country be so co-ordinated and combined as to make them efficient tools? What should be the standard for a teacher's qualifications? How many children be brought to and taken from the school

to distant homes at the least expense. To what extent should the teaching be out of doors and the "examples" those of real life. How can the boy learn that there is adventure in farm life as well as in the city—for adventure he will have. To what uses may the school building be put as a community center for the neighborhood dance, lecture, or moving picture show, or, perhaps, as the home of a co-operative buying or marketing organization? These are but a few of the questions which many men have tried to answer and there have been some successful experiments made and right answers given.

Hopeless Task. But is as hopeless a task for a local school board to find these answers as for a lawyer to know the

A Sure Way To End Dandruff

There is one sure way that has never failed to remove dandruff at once, and that is to dissolve it, then you destroy it entirely. To do this, just get about four ounces of plain, common liquid arvon from any drug store (this is all you will need), apply it at night when retiring; use enough to moisten the scalp and rub it in gently with the finger tips. By morning, most if not all, of your dandruff will be gone, and three or four more applications will completely dissolve and entirely destroy every single sign and trace of it, no matter how much dandruff you may have.

You will find all itching and digging of the scalp will stop instantly, and your hair will be fluffy, lustrous, silky and soft, and look and feel a hundred times better.

decisions of all the courts. The teachers, the superintendents, and the school boards need leadership; they need an authoritative statement or conclusions by the wisest and most practical men in the land; they need to be shown the better way. And with even as little as a hundred thousand dollars a year for two of three years we could, I believe, conduct a campaign for a new kind of rural school that would work less than a revolution in rural life. Our aim would be to identify the school with the farm and the village and develop a new respect in fathers and mothers for the school as a practical and not a mere scholastic institution. The experimental work has been done. We know where the best seed is. Here is call for the co-operative leadership of the government in a work of supreme value to the state. The man to direct this work should be one whose word the nation would heed. That such a man can be secured there is no doubt, for experience justifies the statement that there are no men of large capacity whose services the country cannot command at a material sacrifice.

If asked how this work could be done I should say that it could best be done by showing to the picked teachers of the country the model schools. The quickest and surest way of setting this country aflame with zeal for a better type of country school would be to show the teachers such schools, make them live in them and learn from them by seeing them in action.

Lesson of Experience. There is no such lesson as the one that is taught by experience. Lectures, moving pictures and books may aid. But to see and be part of a movement or life is to make it one's own. If ten live men or women were taken from each state to some one

of the two or three most modern rural schools and there for a month were initiated into the art of teaching out of life, by doing things and not reading about things being done, and if each of the ten went home a missionary for the new idea, how long would it be before the states were converted and old methods abandoned? And once the right kind of school would take the others to follow? This thing can be done and by methods that are so simple and direct that that they will be startling. The need is immediate, and surely it would be a shame to let a generation waste itself while the idea slowly creeps up all four through a country that has invented wireless telephony. In this work the newspapers of the country could, and I feel, assured would give invaluable assistance. Not merely by the publicity given to the movement, but more definitely by helping in the selection of the candidates for this opportunity, in sending them to these selected schools

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NAVY LEAGUE HEAD BUSY AT CAPITAL

SHORTAGE

Of Men in the Labor Market in London Becomes Even More Acute.

(Correspondence of the Associated Press.) LONDON, Dec. 14.—Owing to active recruiting, the shortage of men in the labor market has become more acute and has greatly increased the demand for women and young girls as substitutes. Practically everyone capable of working, says the board of trade Labor Gazette, and it is evident that still larger numbers of women and girls not previously employed in trade and industry are required in many occupations.

Compared with October 1914, there was a general improvement, especially marked in industries engaged in supplying the requirements of the forces.

War bonuses and increases in wages taking effect in October affecting 180,000 workpeople amounted to about \$115,000 a week. There is a general scarcity of colliery workers, farm hands and navvies, and the demand for work people is still greatly in excess of the supply in engineering and ship-building trades. Shortages are reported in the glass, chemical, building and metal trades, and with regard to women, the demand for textile workers is still unsatisfied.



Col. Robert M. Thompson, president of the U. S. Navy League, is a prominent figure at Washington these days, where he is putting up a fight for increased naval preparedness. Laughter Aids Digestion. Laughter is one of the most healthful exertions; it is of great help to digestion. A still more effective help is a dose of Chamberlain's Cough Syrup. If you should be troubled with indigestion give them a trial. They cost only a quarter. Obtainable everywhere.—Advertisement.